PREVENTION: DEVELOPING LANGUAGE

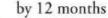
LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

ADVICE TO PARENTS: What you can do to help SEEK HELP: When to ask for advice or help from a speech and language therapist

from birth to 6 months

- · Your baby reacts to sounds, turns eyes and/or head towards source of sound.
- Produces sounds
 - · Talk to him in a calm and warm manner
 - · Sing and laugh along with him
- · Talk about and explain the sounds he hears
- · Name familiar people and things in his life
- . Tell him what you are doing





- · understands simple instructions,
- · says "mummy" and "daddy",
- · responds to his name
- · Play with your voice, your baby loves it: the melody of speech helps him understand and use language more effectively
- · Help your baby discover the pleasure of communication: encourage all types of reciprocal interaction - making faces, smiles, laughter, looking

- Observe if your baby is reacting to sounds
- if not, have his hearing checked
- Seek help if your baby does not make eye contact as basis for communication



 At this stage TV has little value for a child Do not leave him in front of it for long periods It does not promote real communication!

Understands more complex instructions

by 2 years by 18 months

- Understands simple instructions and sentences
- Should be naming familiar objects
- Vocabulary is increasing
- Talk to him as you usually do, using simple words and grammatical sentences - not baby talk
- Give him sturdy books and talk about them
- · Colours and shapes interest him



- Uses 2-3 word sentences
- · Enrich his vocabulary

· Says his name

- · Explain the words he does not understand
- Repeat the words he does not pronounce but do not ask him to repeat it corrrectly on every occasion

Seek help

- · if your child stops speaking
- · if his speech does not continue to develop
- · shows signs of deterioration



Seek help

- · if he has only a few words
- · if his speech is very unintelligible
- · if he does not put 2 words together to form short phrases

by 3 years

- Understands simple sentences
- Uses questions
- Asks questions
- · Uses some plurals and prepositions
- Teach your child how to tell stories; help him clarify his thoughts and feelings
- · Encourage him to stop using a feeding bottle and/or dummy, if he still does



- · Your child's speech is more like an adult's in terms of grammar
- · Read stories together, take turns in telling them; this way you encourage a positive attitude to language and reading
- Children need the example you set let them see you read

Seek help

- · if his speech remains unintelligible
- if he uses only a few verbs but no articles/adjectives
- · if he does not use the plural form
- · if he does not form simple sentences



Seek help

- · if he finds it difficult to begin a sentence or repeats syllables or words
- · if he uses short, unstructured sentences
- if his speech is not always intelligible
- if he cannot relate simple and recent events





by 4 years